

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY**  
**EDUCATION AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the Brown County Education and Recreation Committee was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**Present:** Chair Van Dyck, Supervisor Gruszynski, Supervisor Lefebvre, Supervisor Ballard, Supervisor Campbell  
**Also Present:** Supervisor Brusky, Museum Director Beth Lemke, Museum Deputy Director Kevin Cullen, Zoo Director Neil Anderson, Assistant Park Director Matt Kriese, Library Director Brian Simons, Library Financial Manager Lori Denault, Director of Administration Chad Weininger.

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**I. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Dyck at 5:30 pm.

**II. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Motion made by Supervisor Gruszynski, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Approve/Modify Minutes of November 17, 2016.**

Motion made by Supervisor Gruszynski, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Comments from the Public**

Supervisor Joan Brusky, 2568 S. Webster Avenue, Green Bay, WI

Brusky provided several articles, copies of which are attached, regarding a park in southern Dane County. Dane County is doing wonderful things with this park which was donated in 2002. She encouraged the Committee to read the articles which outline the process of how the plans for the park were developed. She also encouraged the Committee to think big when they consider the acceptance of the Koch property and to realize that it may take a number of years to develop something on the property. She feels the Committee should think positively about the Koch donation and she thanked them for their consideration.

Chair Van Dyck pointed out that the park Brusky is talking about is 240 acres of farmland and 60 acres of woods and there is a very big distinct difference between what she is talking about and a 30 acre home lot like the Koch property. Brusky agreed that this is not an apples to apples comparison and Van Dyck said getting 300 acres of land is very different than a parcel in the middle of a residential subdivision. Brusky noted that there are County parks smaller than 30 acres and the point she is trying to make is that Dane County thought big.

Supervisor Lefebvre added that the City of De Pere has plans for a big subdivision once the bridge goes through and they will be losing a lot of open space. People think that this is going to be a country setting, but it is not. Van Dyck commented that every municipality charges park fees when you build a home, so the City of De Pere will collect large sums of money to build a park at some point in time and if they want to start a development, it will be packed in just like it is in the city. He feels that when you live in the country on a parcel of land, you already have your own park and those people in that area are not clamoring for a park because they do not need one. He said his job is to listen to people and he has done that. He listened about plowing the trail and there was support for that, but there has been zero support for the Koch property and he feels the Board needs to appreciate the positions of the neighbors as well. He said it is a very generous and great donation, but just because someone wants to make a donation does not mean the County needs to do cartwheels to figure out what to do with it. If a park is really needed in that area, the County can go out and find the right parcel of land and create the right park.

Supervisor Gruszynski thanked Brusky for providing the articles to allow the Committee to widen their scope.

1. **Review Minutes of:**
  - a. **Neville Public Museum Governing Board (November 14, 2016).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Gruszynski, seconded by Supervisor Lefebvre to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Communications – None**

**Museum**

2. **Museum Budget Status Financial Report for October 2016.**

Museum Director Beth Lemke informed October was a great month. She noted that the Guest Services Coordinator position was open for three full pay periods which also helped with the numbers.

**Motion made by Supervisor Gruszynski, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Supervisor Campbell arrived at 5:42 pm*

3. **Museum Director's Report.**

Lemke reported that the new Guest Services Coordinator has started and she is looking at processes and procedures and is bringing a new perspective to things which has been promising. The second annual Night at the Museum event was held last night and Lemke said it was a fun evening and less stressful than it was the first time. She said Director of Development Tasha Huntowski did a great job pulling everything off and everything looked smashing and stunning and ticket sales were very good.

Lemke continued that she has been adding social media stories to her reports and said there have been some really interesting conversations with the public about the Holiday Memories exhibit. She said they follow some websites that indicate in the past the Neville has not always been viewed as the most favorable cooperative entity in town and they are trying to change that perception. There is a Facebook page regarding Green Bay and there was a post about the Pranges windows and the post had a large number of "likes" and shares as well as a large number of comments. She feels the community networking is working and noted that last weekend had very good attendance.

Lemke continued that she received confirmation that WBAY will be the media sponsor for the Estamos Aqui exhibit which opens in May and runs into 2018. The Museum will pay a portion from the promotions budget but there will be almost twice as much coming back in in-kind promotions. The Art Colony exhibit will be opening on January 21 and there will be a reception for this on January 19. The Alice in Dairyland exhibit will open in January and run through 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Some outreach has been done on this already and they will be having a huge weekend opening, Agstravaganza, which will include a number of 4-H partnerships and there will be 4-H students volunteering to help promote the ag science and art projects they do.

Lemke concluded that the Museum will be open late on New Year's Eve to participate in US Bank Eve. She plans to be outside handing out brochures and coupons to those in the area.

Supervisor Ballard commented on the Night at the Museum event and said it was a great night and he was happy he attended.

**Motion made by Supervisor Gruszynski, seconded by Supervisor Lefebvre to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**NEW Zoo****4. Budget Status Financial Report for October 2016.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Ballard, seconded by Supervisor Campbell to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Budget Adjustment Request (16-110): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

This Budget Adjustment is in relation to revenues exceeding expectations within the camping and shelter rental accounts and the use of these revenues within the outlay account for a new half ton pickup truck in the Parks Department. This vehicle would replace a truck which is nearly 20 years old. These funds would then be carried over to make the purchase in 2017. Budget impact is \$28,000.

**Motion made by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. Zoo Director's Report and Zoo Monthly Activity Reports.**

NEW Zoo Director Neil Anderson stated that attendance in November was good. They had about 4,800 people versus 3,200 the previous year. They had their Holiday Fest recently which included Breakfast with Santa and the event was attended by 356. Anderson also said they are in the process of moving some of the animals around. The red wolf was moved to Florida and they have another that will be going to Missouri next week. Anderson talked about the duiker they got from Virginia who gave birth to a baby on December 1. Anderson provided a picture of the baby, a copy of which is attached. It is a tiny animal, about the size of a guinea pig.

Anderson continued that the Zoo has been winterized and he also noted that they had a workshop recently on the master plan and strategic plan. He would like to have the January Ed and Rec meeting at the Zoo so a presentation can be given by Schultz and Williams.

Anderson also informed they recently did a LEAN 6S project in one of the sheds and it was fun in that they did it with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes in Pulaski. He said the kids worked very hard and the shed now looks very nice.

Lefebvre asked what special accommodations are made for the animals with the subzero temperatures. Anderson said they all have shelters and they make sure they all have dry bedding, but more importantly they all have access to warm water. The animals do pretty well in the cold for the most part and they watch closely to make sure that everything is okay.

**Motion made by Supervisor Gruszynski, seconded by Supervisor Campbell to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Park Management****7. Budget Status Financial Report for October 2016.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Ballard, seconded by Supervisor Lefebvre to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. November 2016 park attendance and field staff reports.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 9. Assistant Director's Report.

Van Dyck informed Kriese that he has heard comments that Steve Corrigan of the Fair Board is quite pleased with the final product at the Fairgrounds. Assistant Park Director Matt Kriese said there are few soft spots which will be fixed but it is a very minor issue. He said Corrigan was extremely complementary about the project and the County government operation as a whole.

Kriese referenced the Budget Adjustment, Item 5 above, and noted that staff had to work extremely hard with low numbers to generate the additional revenue. Additional revenue means additional people in the parks, additional cleaning and additional work on the backside. When staff sees that they are working hard and the fruits of their labor is being able to get new equipment, it goes leaps and bounds for them. Kriese noted the new truck is very much needed.

Kriese also mentioned NWTC is still working at Bay Shore Park on the electrical upgrade but the project will be wrapped up this week because classes are done. On behalf of the County they provided a lunch for the workers in appreciation for the many, many volunteer hours they put in. The new semester will start in February and NWTC will have crews back out there pulling wire and that half of the campground should be up and running in time for the season. He noted that half of the campground is closed from September through the end of the year, but revenue is still up by about \$20,000 at Bay Shore. This is attributed to a mix of weather and the online reservations and he gave his staff a lot of credit on this.

Another major project going on right now is a grant funded habitat project at Barkhausen with Ducks Unlimited. The project will come in a little over \$400,000. The contractor on the project is from Minocqua and has been fantastic to work with and Kriese would reach out to them again in the future for other projects.

The County is busy getting into winter operations and they have started grooming the ski trails. There have been countless skiers, but he noted that trails are currently closed until there is more snow. He is looking forward to the projected snowfall over the weekend and said it will provide great quality trails before Christmas which is a bonus for people who are off over the holidays.

Kriese talked briefly about the snowmobile trails and passed out a map. He said the County has 192 miles of trails which are coordinated by the Park Department and 11 clubs that help out. They are running into more issues with the clubs and Kriese said he spends a lot of time on the phone with land owners to talk about easements and crossing on lands. Some of the trails are having to divert around areas and connectivity is becoming a little bit more difficult.

Kriese also noted he just received notice from the DNR that they have received a \$20,000 grant for resurfacing parts of the State trails. Part of this will be used on the Fox River Trail, but the bulk of the funds will be used on the Mountain Bay Trail and he will be bringing a budget adjustment forward on this next year.

Kriese also provided information on the Friends of Neshota Park 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Snowshoe Race scheduled for January 28, 2017, a copy of which is attached along with a copy of the 2017 Barkhausen Public Program Guide which is also attached.

Kriese also talked about the plowing of the Fox River Trail and noted that he has been working with the County Executive and it appears there will be a joint municipality collaboration on this which is a little different than where the motion currently sits. They may be looking at pulling some of the money from the Rails and Trails account and then looking to outside funding sources. There is a lot more to come on this and Kriese will continue to keep the Committee updated, but at this time he feels things are moving along in a positive direction.

Van Dyck asked what will happen with this at Administration Committee if it is going to be a shared mutual agreement which would not require money out of the general fund. Director of Administration Chad Weininger responded that a budget adjustment will still be necessary which requires a 2/3 vote by the Board. The reason this went to Administration Committee is because there is a use of general fund dollars whereas if it would have been done out the Park fund, it would have been a 2/3 vote done by the oversight committee and then on to the Board. Now because there is a specific action this Committee took to send it to Administration Committee, it has to play out that way.

Lefebvre asked for an update on how the Packers parking is going at the Fairgrounds. Kriese responded that the camping revenue was up about \$8,000 this year. Initially there were some complaints about the fee increase, but those have subsided. There were also a few complaints that other events were held at the Fairgrounds while camping was going on and Kriese noted that next year when there is Packers camping there will be no other events going on at the Fairgrounds.

**Motion made by Supervisor Ballard, seconded by Supervisor Campbell to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### Library

10. **Budget Adjustment Request (16-108): Reallocation between two or more departments, regardless of amount.**

This Budget Adjustment is to transfer remaining Central Library Renovation capital project 2012A bond funds to the Debt Service Fund in order to comply with IRS regulations regarding taxability of the bonds issued in prior years. Budget impact is \$340,000.

Library Director Brian Simons further explained that this is from the 425 fund which was bonded for several years ago. Many good things were done with this money, but there was some money left over and it was agreed that it would go back to the fund to pay off the debt service. The Library Board has been notified of this but Simons noted that they do not have say over this.

**Motion made by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

11. **Library Employee Banked Sick Leave.**

Van Dyck said this is on the agenda because this Committee requested that Simons create a resolution which was done and handled at the November County Board meeting, but it was not handled exactly how the Library Board thought it was going to be addressed. Simons said there is still about \$72,000 the Library has paid over the last three years that the Library is not getting reimbursed for. That being said, there is a solution going forward and Simons said they will take what they can get and move forward and keep plugging along.

**Motion made by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

12. **Director's Report.**

Simons reported on the feasibility study for the East branch and noted that the architectural firm will begin their work on December 21 and it is expected to take several months. He expects a complete facility study in two to three months and then a recommendation will be given with regard to the direction the Library Board would like to see the East branch go.

Simons also talked about the restrooms at the Central Library and indicated the lower level restrooms are complete and the second and third floor restrooms are also complete. Work continues on the first floor

restrooms and it is anticipated they will be done by the end of the year. Simons also reported that the study rooms at Kress are also being worked on and should be done soon. With regard to the furniture for the Ashwaubenon branch, Simons said it is almost 70% delivered and the rest should be arriving over the holidays and they are hoping to put the furniture out between the holidays. He noted that the new furniture will make the facility look like new.

Simons continued that the Library will be part of a large community event, a book and author festival entitled Untitled Town which will be taking place April 28-30, 2017. The organization already has \$5,000 in donations and two grants totaling \$30,000 and they are asking larger corporations for sponsorship. Simons thinks this will be a great event due to the people involved and he feels the Library will be able to do some neat things with it. Simons expects attendance at the event to be at least 2000.

Campbell complimented Simons on the direction he is taking the Library and said she feels we are becoming a community which is integrated in our cultural assets which is something that needed to be done for a long time.

**Motion made by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**13. Library Report.**

*See above; no action taken.*

**14. Golf Course - Budget Status Financial Report for October 2016.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Gruszynski, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**15. Resch Centre/Arena/Shopko Hall – Complex Attendance for November 2016.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Ballard, seconded by Supervisor Gruszynski to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Other**

**16. Audit of bills.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Ballard, seconded by Supervisor Gruszynski to pay the bills. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**17. Such other matters as authorized by law. None.**

**18. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Ballard to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein	Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary	Transcriptionist



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EDITOR'S PICK TOPICAL

## ON WISCONSIN | SILVERWOOD COUNTY PARK

### Dane County farmstead remains a farm and becomes a park

Barry Adams | Wisconsin State Journal Dec 11, 2016



M.P. KING, STATE JOURNAL

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The the second floor and the plaster that had covered the interior walls of a pre-Civil War limestone farmhouse in southeastern Dane County have been removed to create an inviting space for a visitors center at Silverwood County Park in the town of Albion. Gregory Markle, executive director of Operation Fresh Start, center, gives Steve Hartley, left, president of the OFS board of directors, and Dane County Executive Joe Parisi a tour of the farmhouse that was restored by young adults in the OFS program and unveiled last week.

### More information



Duluth Trading Co. to move headquarters to Mount Horeb; keep distribution warehouse, call center in Belleville

1,000 pounds of flour (and many more ingredients) brings Lebanon together

Electronic registration means fewer hunting stories at Northwoods registration stations

**TOWN OF ALBION** – Those who worked to build and then restore a home here were separated by more than 155 years but had similar aspirations.

John Bullis and his family were looking for opportunity when they came from New York in 1848 to settle on this oak savanna and prairie in southeastern Dane County. This is where they later dug limestone by hand to construct a two-story farmhouse and cobble out a living as farmers.

Likewise, the more than 100 teenagers and young adults who helped refurbish the house over several months this year are hoping their experience will help reboot their lives and prepare them for the future.

Comments  
from the  
public



On Wisconsin: Uplands Cheese, Martha Stewart and worry over high-powered transmission lines

School referendums earn broad support in Madison, Sun Prairie, McFarland and Belleville

On Wisconsin: Clock tower and history preserved in Waterloo

Wing Tech Bikes adds gas and gears to Wisconsin bike market

On Wisconsin: After years of debate and study, bridge over St. Croix River nears completion

On Wisconsin: Elk return to Jackson County but are a tough find

Alanna McClain, 18, of Madison, dropped out of East High School but is pursuing a GED and has hopes of college where she can study psychology. But since April, she has been a member of Operation Fresh Start, a Dane County program founded in 1970 that has helped put more than 8,000 disconnected young people on a path to self-sufficiency.

For McClain, who had no exposure to rural life before entering the OFS program, the path this year has included clearing brush, planting vegetables and repairing the stone work of a farmhouse that is one of the centerpieces of Silverwood County Park.

"At first it was kind of hard because I wasn't used to working so hard," McClain said. "It was different and a quiet environment. But it all came together and looks really nice."

The efforts of the pioneers and, over the past three years, OFS workers, countless volunteers and the county, have combined to create a 300-acre living museum where tourism, history, nature and agriculture have merged. This is where visitors can explore Rice Lake, tromp a trail system, grow vegetables and get an up-close view of how homes were built before there were nail guns, electric saws or a Menards.



Operation Fresh Start participant Alanna McClain was among the more than 100 workers who helped restore the farmhouse at Silverwood County Park in the town of Albion. JOURNAL

M.P. KING, STATE JOURNAL

Officials gathered here last week to celebrate the development and restoration of the Silverwood farmstead and recognize the generosity of Irene Silverwood, a former business education teacher at Edgerton High School who donated the property to the county in 2001. Silverwood died in 2003 at the age of 84.



Comments  
from the  
public



The original farmhouse at Silverwood County Park has been restored and an addition constructed on the right for accessible bathrooms. The facility is now a visitors center for the park in southeastern Dane County. The home is believed to have been built in the 1840s or 1850s.

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Her family purchased the farm in 1870. "This farm is history to us," Silverwood said in 2001. "Now this property is always going to be here for everybody."

Since 2001, the county has rented much of the land to local farmers and continues to do so, but over the past three years it has invested \$300,000 to prepare the park for public use. Buildings have been restored and repaired, prairies planted, trail systems created and garden plots developed.

Other partners in the project have included the Renegades 4-H Club; Freedom Inc., a Madison organization that works with minorities to promote healthy lifestyles; the Edgerton School District; and the Friends of Silverwood, whose projects have included the restoration of a 100-foot-long and 20 foot-high wooden corn crib.

Laura Hicklin, the county's deputy director of land and water resources, said keeping the land in farming and providing educational opportunities were central for the Silverwoods. How some of the land is used for agriculture is still being developed.

"What it looks like moving forward is going to rely on what partners can bring to the table," Hicklin said. "The county is saying the park is available but we're trying not to prescribe what happens. It will evolve over time but since it's so new we're feeling it out with those partners."



A more than 100-foot-long wooden corn crib at Silverwood County Park was restored by Friends of Silverwood, one of the many groups and organizations that have helped transform the former homestead into a public park.

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*Comments  
from the  
public*



The Silverwood farmstead was donated to the county in 2001 by Irene Silverwood, who died in 2003. The farm has been transformed into a county park and agricultural education center. Old metal corn cribs are used for art work installations. The park also includes crops, hiking trails and a small lake.

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For example, the Friends of Silverwood are using about 16 acres for garden plots, while UW-Madison is using 44 acres for a demonstration project on switch grass. A local farmer has rented 133 acres for row crops and, beginning next year, another farmer will rent 25 acres for organic crops. More land, a hoop house and a trio of small research greenhouses could be available for other organizations, Hicklin said.

Irene and Russell Silverwood had discussed donating the land for the park long before Russell died in 1988. Russell served on the Dane County Board from 1949 to 1963, while Irene retired from teaching in 1984 after 36 years and was a longtime volunteer at the Dane County Fair.

"I think she'd be very, very pleased with this," said Darren Marsh, the county's parks director, as he toured the park last week. "Our goal was to stabilize the property and to get the property moving forward where we could provide public access."



A hoop house, right, and a series of small research greenhouses are part of the agricultural component at Silverwood County Park in the town of Albion.

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*Comments  
from the  
public*

For decades the original farmhouse has been the centerpiece of the property, located near the Jefferson County line and about two miles northwest of Lake Koshkonong. The home is believed to have been built in the 1840s or 1850s according to research by Julia Ince, a history professor at UW-Whitewater who studies 18th and 19th century American domestic architecture.



An oak tree that was likely alive prior to the construction of the pre-Civil War farmhouse adds to the historic setting at Silverwood County Park in the town of Albion.

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The home was no longer being lived in and was in disrepair when Irene Silverwood donated the land to the county. The roof was sagging, plaster covered the interior walls, the floors had shag carpeting and mice were prolific. Beginning in January, OFS crews began gutting the house, now the park's visitor center, and repairing the stone work. The second floor was removed to create a more open and inviting space, while the plaster was slowly removed to expose the stonework.

"It was a painstaking process with hammer and chisels. We were in here for probably four weeks just chiseling away every last bit," said Kevin Dodds, a crew supervisor for OFS for the past two years who spent 13 years as a preservationist at Taliesin in Spring Green.

Comments  
from the  
public



The visitor center will be used for historical displays, events, classes and ultimately may be used for parties and small weddings.

A gigantic oak tree that likely predates the construction of the house, towers over the north side of the building but adds to the character and historical significance of the property.

Other work by OFS crews included removing invasive species, cleaning out old buildings and improving access to the lake. They also built a makeshift vegetable cooler in a shed by using an air conditioner, insulation and plywood. In the last three years, OFS crews, in cooperation with the Friends of Silverwood, have grown potatoes, radishes, carrots, tomatoes and green beans, adding to the educational experience for the crews.

Produce grown by OFS crews has been used in its own kitchen for breakfast and lunch offerings with some donated to food pantries. Porchlight Products, a Madison nonprofit that jars locally grown produce, has received some of the tomatoes to make sauce.

"We wanted to try sort of an agricultural work platform and get our young people engaged in that so they can understand where their food comes from," said Greg Markle, executive director of OFS. "We've been working in parks for probably 20 years but the whole idea of building a park was new and different and pretty massive compared to what we've done in the past."

Barry Adams covers regional news for the Wisconsin State Journal. Send him ideas for On Wisconsin at 608-252-6148 or by email at

[badams@madison.com](mailto:badams@madison.com).

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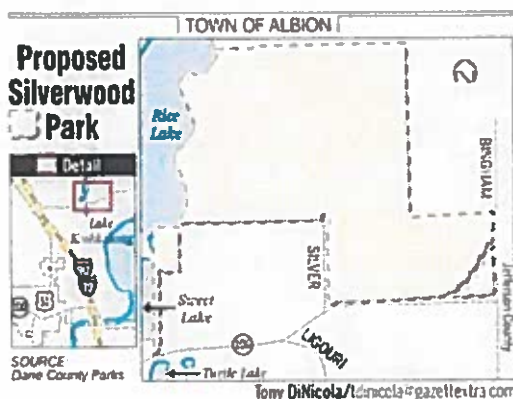
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## Former Albion farm could become agricultural learning lab

[Comments](#) [Print](#)

NEIL JOHNSON

Saturday, February 22, 2014



**TOWN OF ALBION**—A former family farm north of Edgerton could become a multifaceted learning laboratory for agricultural education if a nonprofit group can find footing and support for its plans.

Silverwood County Park, a 300-acre Dane County park

### TO HELP

The nonprofit group Friends of Silverwood Park is hosting public input sessions to help develop a master plan for the Dane County-owned Silverwood

in the town of Albion already has seen use as a laboratory for agricultural research and learning for students from Edgerton High School and the UW System.

But Friends of Silverwood Park, a nonprofit

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### Galleries



*Comments from the public*



Park in the town of Albion. The group and Dane County are partnering in an effort to re-develop the donated 300-acre park, a former farmstead, as an agriculture education learning and training ground and recreational area. The groups are seeking ideas and support from the public in planning the park.

#### Dates to watch:

The next Friends of Silverwood Park meeting is 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 11 at Albion Town Hall, 624 Albion Road, Edgerton. The group also is hosting a public input session at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 22 at the Edgerton Public Library, 101 Albion St., Edgerton.

#### For More

**Information:** Visit Friends of Silverwood Park on the web at [silverwoodpark.org](http://silverwoodpark.org), and on Facebook at [Silverwood Park](https://www.facebook.com/SilverwoodPark).

group that's partnering with Dane County, wants more, and the county's willing to listen to public input to form a master plan on the park.

A chicken house? Maybe. Canoeing, kayaking and hiking. Probably. There's also talk of a lecture hall/restaurant/learning lab, corncribs turned-lookout observatories, a tree house, and, when Rice Lake is frozen, ice fishing and broomball.

"I guess if we don't think big, we're not going to get anywhere. The sky's the limit. There are no ideas that are way out there," said Katie Vance-Whitten, president of Friends of Silverwood Park.

The park, a former farmstead north of Highway 106 and Liguori Road, was donated to Dane County a decade ago by the late Irene Silverwood, who was a teacher at Edgerton High School. Her husband, G. Russel Silverwood, farmed the land. Silverwood's wish was that the park would be used for agricultural education.

The county and the nonprofit group got the land released in 2012, and the groups have launched a campaign for private support and public input to turn it into a recreational and educational area for agriculture education and training for students and the public.

It's just the start of partnered efforts in the park. The county, Friends of Silverwood and the Edgerton School District hope to transform the park into an "off the grid" learning lab that could combine elements of alternative energy studies with back-to-basics farming, greenhouse operations and even country store-style marketing.

Edgerton High School students are growing winter carrots at the park this year as part of their agriculture studies, and last month one high school student and the school's agriculture teachers



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Wednesday, December 14, 2016

**Jakob "Jake" Manogue, Milton, WI**

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

**Rivalry romp: Stoughton cruises over Milton**

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

**Milton teen killed in town of Delavan crash Friday**

Monday, December 12, 2016

**Palmyra-Eagle senior a three-sport**

*Comments from the public*



organized an ice-fishing demonstration on Rice Lake, Vance-Whitten said.

Meanwhile, UW-Madison researchers have begun to grow switchgrass in the park for biofuel research, Vance-Whitten said. Switchgrass is a native North American prairie grass that some biofuel researchers see as an alternative to ear corn for fuel production.

The county established a matching fund for the park of \$150,000 through its capital fund to develop the park, Dane County Real Estate & Acquisition Director Laura Guyer said.

The Friends of Silverwood and its nine-member board is casting a wide net for public input on a master plan for the park. The group is hosting a number of upcoming planning sessions in Edgerton and Madison to get ideas of how people envision the park's development.

Guyer said the county will make final decisions on any park plans, but it's got a "wonderful partnership" with the Friends of Silverwood. The county plans to take comments until mid-April to develop a master plan over the next several months. She said preliminary master plans could be unveiled for more public input in June or July.

Those plans could give the county a window into how people would want to use the park and help the Friends of Silverwood develop a fundraising campaign.

For now, the park is largely undeveloped and is not an active public recreation site, although plans for hiking trails and lake access are in the works, the groups say.

"Really, it's a blank slate. There's nothing out there right now," Vance-Whitten said. "There are classes planned for the summer through Edgerton School District, and there may be other entities from Madison. But it's in its infancy right now."

The main challenge for the park, Guyer and Vance-Whitten said, is its location—it's in the far southern reaches of Dane County leaving it somewhat out of the spotlight for Madison area residents.

But its location also is a boon, Vance-Whitten said.

standout

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Tommy "Max" Perkins, Janesville, WI

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

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Comments  
from the  
public

"We're within ten to twenty minutes of several communities and the school districts in Edgerton, Milton, Janesville and Fort Atkinson," she said. "All the surrounding schools could benefit from a park like this."

The Dane County alternative education program Operation Fresh Start has students shoring up and rehabbing a stone farmhouse that's part of three original homesteads on park grounds, and there's enough open land for at least eight football-sized crop fields, livestock areas and even grounds to feed and observe birds and other wildlife.

Meanwhile, those students also plan to rehab some of the corn cribs on the land, which could be re-used as future observatory towers at the park, Vance-Whitten said.

This spring volunteers will clear hiking, biking and horse trails in woods along Rice Lake, which borders the west side of the park. Those trails are planned for public use.

Guyer said the county wants to learn how much public or volunteer support there could be for maintaining crop plots on the land. Vance-Whitten said some members of the group have an ambitious hope the park could one day have a lecture hall/country store where students can learn to cook, can and even market their own produce.

"It's sustainable agriculture. It's how can we survive on a piece of land and be 'off the grid,' basically?" Vance-Whitten said.

Vance-Whitten said park organizers are drawing preliminary ideas on the park from an outdoor agriculture learning lab and farm, Gale Woods Farm Park, a 410-acre reserve in suburban Minneapolis, but the group seeks local ideas, and even volunteers to join the Friends board in upcoming meetings.

"We need as much input and support as we can get," she said.

The Silverwood Park plans are taking off as another nearby nonprofit, Southwestern Wisconsin Agricultural Group, is trying to drum up support for its own \$20-million plan to create a regional agriculture and events center, and potentially, a new site for the Rock County 4H Fairgrounds on 200 acres along Highway 14 and County M in Evansville.

Comments from  
the public

Vance-Whitten did not give an estimated costs or fundraising goals for her own group's plans.

Among the larger questions the groups are asking themselves as they forge a plan is whether the park would satisfy the Silverwoods' wishes that the land remain a model for agricultural teaching and learning, Guyer said.

The UW System and high school's educational uses are in keeping with those wishes, she said.

County funding that's available now is to help organizers get a foothold on some features to build on, and the county and organizers are looking into grants that would fuel the park's development, Guyer said. She said Friends of Silverwood Park and the Edgerton School District are being looked at as major partners to drive the park's development and planning.

Guyer said the plans would develop gradually, but initial phases wouldn't take long.

"I can tell you that some likely outcomes soon are public trails and access to Rice Lake. But it does take time for our parks to develop. We want it to last forever, but we don't want to rush in. We want to make sure to leave room for ideas to develop and grow."

 Comments  Print

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## Historic On and Off Trolley Tour of...

Savannah Trip Planning

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Comments from  
the public

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## Dane County to begin development of new Silverwood Park in town of Albion

ROB SCHULTZ | Wisconsin State Journal | [rschultz@madison.com](mailto:rschultz@madison.com) | 608-252-6487 Nov 23, 2012



Dane County will start to develop a new park with an urban/rural theme next year on 300 acres of county-owned land in the town of Albion.

The future Silverwood Park includes 240 acres of farmland and 60 acres of woods bordering Rice Lake. It is located on Highway 106 in the southeast corner of the county and named after Irene Silverwood, a longtime teacher and Dane County Fair volunteer who donated the land to the county in 2002.

There are plenty of potential uses for the park including hiking, kayaking, canoeing and fishing. But what makes the park unique is a plan to use part of the land as an agricultural education facility with community gardens open to nonprofit groups to grow food.

"The nonprofits are more urban based, so this is about getting the urban community interacting with the ag community," said Dane County executive Joe Parisi. "It speaks to the unique nature of this region and really reflects the diversity of the needs and wants of the people and being able to address all of those."

The Madison-based Operation Fresh Start, which helps around 150 youth and young adults each year earn high school or equivalent diplomas while developing vocational skills in conservation and housing environments, hopes to play a large role in the park.

*Comments from the public*

Executive director Greg Markle envisions an educational work farm at Silverwood where families, schools and day camps can "understand sustainable ag and how it pertains to Dane County, how it's important to produce your own food."

Markle estimated the project would cost \$1 million to create a welcome center and a staff center out of the two abandoned houses that are on the site, improve or remove existing outbuildings to make them safe and construct a barn/educational facility.

Operation Fresh Start could provide all the labor at no cost and could help run it, too, Markle said.

"It's a neat fit for us," Markle said.

The 2013 Dane County budget includes \$150,000 for the park and will pay for signs, a driveway, parking lot and some facility improvements, said Parisi's chief of staff, Josh Wescott. He added it will take around two years to finish the development, and the county expects to get financial help from several groups that have already shown "a lot of enthusiasm" in it.

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"It's going to be a great regional attraction. But right now it's literally green space," said Wescott of the mostly undeveloped site. "It's this unknown, kind of underutilized part of the parks system."

The county's plan follows the wishes of Silverwood, who spent some of her 44 years as a business education teacher in Edgerton and was a Dane County Fair volunteer for 39 years before she died in 2002. Her husband, Russell, served on the Dane County Board from 1949 to 1963 and was a former chairman of the Albion Town Board.

Kevin Copnors, director of the county Land and Water Resources Department, said the county Parks Department, the Dane County Food Council and others are developing a master plan for the park. The agricultural education component is similar to one proposed for the county's new Anderson Park near Oregon.

A concept plan for that park shows a farm learning center and an area for farmers to lease up to eight acres of commercial garden plots in a portion of the 127 acres the county initially purchased for the park from the family of Oregon farmer and area politician Lyman Anderson.

The plan also shows hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and equestrian trails and a group camping site as part of an additional 207 acres that the county is purchasing from the family this year for about \$2.4 million.

Comments  
from the  
public





12-1-16

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## **FRIENDS OF NESHOTA PARK 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL 5K SNOWSHOE**

**Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.  
at Neshota Park 5757 Park Road, Denmark, WI**

### **All snowshoers welcome!**

Beautiful trail through the woods and over the creek. Snowshoers of all levels welcome, whether racing or just enjoying the trek through the woods. All participants must bring their own snowshoes. Parking is limited; please ride with a friend. Proceeds will benefit Phase 2 of the playground at Neshota Park.

For mor information, check us out on FaceBook:


<https://www.facebook.com/NeshotaPark>

To register, go to:

<https://www.raceentry.com/races/neshota-park/2017/register>

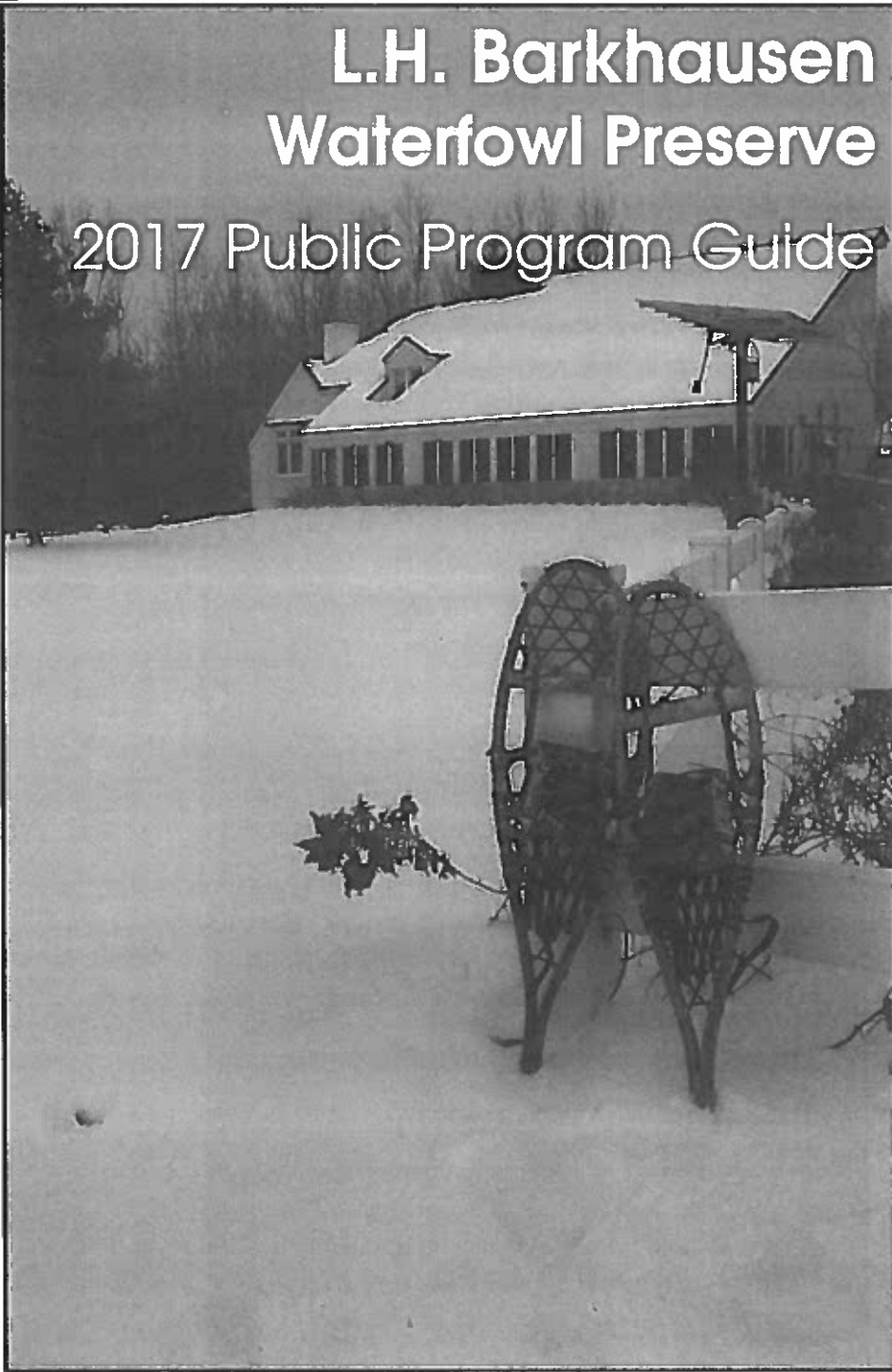
\*No refunds. If inclemet weather or no snow, the race will become a walk/run.



 = Registration required, call (920) 434-2824 or (920) 448-6242 to register!

# L.H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve

## 2017 Public Program Guide



*L.H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve 2017 Public Program Guide*

☐ = Registration required, call (920) 434-2824 or (920) 448-6242 to register!

## January

### ☐ Snowshoe Discovery Hike

**\$3/person + rental fee\***

Come play in the snow! Join a naturalist for a one-hour snowshoe hike. Learn about natural history, snowshoeing techniques, and more. Bring your own snowshoes or rent ours!

*Saturday, January 21st 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*

*Saturday, January 28th 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*

### ☐ Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

**\$3/person + rental fee\***

Experience the woods in winter on this night-hike. A naturalist will help you experience Barkhausen during this seldom-visited time. Bring your own snowshoes or rent ours!

*Friday, January 13th 7:00 p.m.*

## February

### Candlelight Ski and Snowshoe

**\$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family + rental fee\***

Walk, snowshoe, or ski on our candle-lit trails during this self-guided event. Bring your own snowshoes or rent ours!

*Saturday, February 11th 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.*

*Friday, February 17th 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.*

### ☐ Winter Survival

**\$15/person, lunch provided**

Learn how to survive in the woods! A naturalist will take you outside and teach you survival skills: layering clothing, building a fire, constructing a shelter, preparing food, and more. All food and supplies are provided.

*Saturday, February 25th 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

☐ = Registration required, call (920) 434-2824 or (920) 448-6242 to register!

## March

### ☐ Bluebird House Workshop

**\$10/kit, Please bring your own hammer!**

Want to attract colorful wildlife to your yard? Join us as we guide you in building your own bluebird house. We will also discuss birdhouse placement and care.

*Saturday, March 4th 10:00 a.m.*

*Saturday, March 11th 10:00 a.m.*

### Maple Syrupin' Public Day

**\$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family**

Most of us know that we enjoy maple syrup as a sugary treat, but do you know how it is made? We will walk you through the history and process of maple 'syrupin', from its mythical origins to its modern day production.

*Saturday, March 25th 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

## April

### ☐ Bat House Workshop

**\$10/kit, Please bring your own hammer!**

Despite their sinister reputation, bats play an important role in the ecosystem and are amazing mosquito hunters! We will help you build a new home for bats while also teaching about bat natural history and conservation.

*Saturday, April 8th 10:00 a.m.*

*Saturday, April 29th 10:00 a.m.*

 = Registration required, call (920) 434-2824 or (920) 448-6242 to register!

## May & June

### Let's Go Froggin!

 \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family

Grab your boots and net, we're going froggin'! Learn about the different frogs of Wisconsin and their calls and then head out to the wetlands of Barkhausen to see what you can catch.

*Friday, May 19th 7:30 p.m.*

*Friday, June 2nd 7:30 p.m.*

*Saturday, June 3rd 7:30 p.m.*

### Kayaking 101

 \$40/person (age 17+), \$25/child (ages 10-16)

Join our certified instructor on a fun, introductory program designed for all skill levels. We will teach safety, basic paddle strokes, and rescues all while exploring local wetlands. This program is designed to get you comfortable out on the water and provide you with an opportunity to use your new skills by participating in a few interactive games.

*Thursday, June 15th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

### Cat Island Tour

 \$50/person (age 17+), \$40/child (ages 14-16)

Ever wondered what the Cat Island Project is all about? Or have you ever wanted to see them up close? If you answered yes, then join a Naturalist on a personal tour of the Cat Islands! Don't forget to pack a snack or bagged lunch to enjoy out on the water!

*Friday, June 23rd 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

Looking for a more personalized kayak adventure to fit into your schedule? Then private customized programs are the way to go! Please note that these programs require groups of three or more. To schedule a program call (920) 434-2824.

 = Registration required, call (920) 434-2824 or (920) 448-6242 to register!

## July

### Sunset Paddle

 \$40/person (age 17+), \$25/child (ages 10-16)

Ever watch the sun go down while on the water? Join a naturalist on a relaxing paddle designed to get you comfortable in your kayak while watching the sunset from a whole new perspective.

*Saturday, July 8th 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.*

### Kayaking 101

 \$40/person (age 17+), \$25/child (ages 10-16)

Join our certified instructor on a fun, introductory program designed for all skill levels. We will teach safety, basic paddle strokes, and rescues all while exploring local wetlands. This program is designed to get you comfortable out on the water and provide you with an opportunity to use your new skills by participating in a few interactive games.

*Friday, July 14th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

### Summer Camp

 \$20/day, \$10/t-shirt, \$75/week & includes a t-shirt!

Buried treasure, arts and crafts, exploration, and games: summer is a time for fun and adventure! Our four-day summer camp program will get kids outside and exploring the woods and wetlands of Barkhausen.

*Monday, July 10th - Thursday, July 13th 9:00-11:30 a.m. (ages 6-9)*

*Monday, July 17th and Tuesday, July 18th 9:00-2:00 p.m. (ages 10-13)*

### Duck Creek Wetland Tour

 \$50/person (age 17+), \$40/child (ages 14-16)

Kayak with a naturalist to discover Duck Creek's wetlands – one of Brown County's most popular bodies of water. Come ready to explore as we get up close to many different wetland species including herons, bitterns, otters, and more! Don't forget a snack or a bagged lunch to enjoy on the water!

*Saturday, July 22nd 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*



☐ = Registration required, call (920) 434-2824 or (920) 448-6242 to register!

## August

☐ Youth Waterfowl Day

**FREE- recommended ages 8-15**

Join the Green Bay Duck Hunter Association as they provide fun and educational waterfowl hunting demonstrations. Lunch will be provided.

*Saturday, August 5th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

☐ Cat Island Tour

**\$50/person (age 17+), \$40/child (ages 14-16)**

Ever wondered what the Cat Island Project is all about? Or have you ever wanted to see them up close? If you answered yes, then join a naturalist on a personal tour of the Cat Islands! Don't forget to pack a snack or bagged lunch to enjoy out on the water!

*Saturday, August 12th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

☐ Suamico River Tour

**\$50/person (age 17+) and \$40/child (age 10-16)**

Paddle with a naturalist for a chance to get up close and personal with the unique nature and the scenery of the Suamico River. Bring a sense of adventure and bagged lunch to enjoy on the water! This low-key tour is designed for all ages and skill levels.

*Wednesday, August 23rd 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**Brown County Fair**

**Admission fee**

Come visit us and the animals at the fair! We will have live animals, a pond exploration tank, educational materials, and much more.

*Wednesday, August 16th - Sunday, August 20th (during fair hours)*

## October

☐ Autumn Night Hike

**\$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family**

The night is a world full of strange sounds and sights. A naturalist will guide you through Barkhausen at night while teaching about the animals that are active during this time. After the hike, enjoy a campfire, tasty treat, and hayride.

*Friday, October 13th 7:00 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 14th 7:00 p.m.*

*Friday, October 20th 7:00 p.m.*

## December

☐ Build a Bird Feeder

**\$10/feeder, Please bring your own hammer!**

Winter is a difficult time for birds, but you can make it easier! We will guide you in building your own bird feeder while teaching about bird feeders, birdseed, and more.

*Saturday, December 2nd 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

**Holiday Craft Workshop**

**2 crafts for \$5**

Join us as we create an all-natural holiday decoration or ornament that will look great on a tree or around the house.

*Saturday, December 9th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*





= Registration required, call (920) 434-2824 or (920) 448-6242 to register!



## Brown County Parks

*Enriching the quality of life in Brown County through a comprehensive system of open space and outdoor recreational facilities with an emphasis on natural resources, recreation, and outdoor education.*

### L.H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve

2024 Lakeview Drive

Suamico, Wisconsin 54173

(920) 434-2824



L.H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve

L.H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve is a 920 acre Brown County Park located on the west shore of Green Bay. A place where prehistoric peoples once hunted, fished and camped, today this natural area is home and refuge for a wide variety of wildlife and plant species. Over nine miles of hiking trails allow for exploration through a variety of habitats.

Outdoor education programs, family nature programs, scout programs, and naturalist-led walks are available on a year-round basis. Visitors of all ages enjoy exploring the Interpretive Center, which has many exciting animal and nature exhibits as well as hands-on activities.

Stop on by and visit, you'll be glad you did!